Witnessing

Disaster Relief

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Witnessing: *Disaster Relief*!

Witnessing: Biblical Foundations

1. People are condemned already – Jn. 3:18; Rev. 20:15
2. Christ is the example – Lk. 19:10
3. God commands us – Mk. 16:15
4. Time challenges us – Rm. 13:12 – Eph. 5:16
5. The field is calling us – Mt. 9:37-38
6. Wisdom beckons or summons us – Prov. 11:30
7. Love constrains us – 2 Cor. 5:14-15
8. Paul demonstrated it for us – 1 Cor. 9:22
9. The Gospel directs us – Rom. 1:16
10. Indebtedness compels us – Rom 1:16
11. The early Christians modeled it for us – Acts. 8:4
12. Hell cries out to us – Lk. 16:27
13. Joy awaits us – Psalm 126:5-6

Witnessing: The Heartbeat of the Church

Mt. 28:17-20

1. The Concept of Witnessing Must Be Biblical: *"make disciples: baptizing, teaching"*
   A. Our Attitude (Phil. 2:5; Rom 12:2)
   B. Our Agency: "Channels Only" (Eph. 3:10; 2 Cor. 5:18-20)
2. The Content of Witnessing Must Be Legitimate
   A. Christ as a Person – not a plan: not just "answers" to "questions" - "Let the earth hear His voice"
   B. Confidence in truths from God, not rumors about God
3. The Concern of Witnessing Must Be People
   A. Worthiness of people - not just walking the aisles to be dipped & discarded.
   B. Discipleship and Development

Witnessing: The Early Church & the Modern Church
What's the Difference?

1. What is our Number One Priority?
2. Where is our Compassion?
3. Are we open to the leading of the Holy Spirit?
4. Are we too preacher-conscious?
5. Is witnessing natural & spontaneous or guilt-ridden?
6. Are we to passively advertize or actively infiltrate?
7. Are we on a mission – or just building monuments?
8. Can Christian joy actually be bottled up?

Witnessing: Recognizing and Finding the Lost

Lk. 15

1. Some Are Lost *From* the Fold (Lost sheep: vs. 4-7)
2. Some Are Lost *Within* the Fold (Lost coin: vs. 8-10)
3. Some Are Lost *Because of* the Fold (Lost sons: vs. 12-24)

Witnessing: A Strategy

Acts 1:3-8

1. The basis of witnessing is the resurrection of Jesus.
2. The power for witnessing is the Holy Spirit.
3. The temptation in witnessing is to speculate about the secondary – avoid it.
4. The call to witness is absolute: "You shall receive power to be witnesses."
5. The crux of witnessing must be Christ-centered (not about us): "witnesses of *Me*"
6. The strategy of witnessing is clear-cut: where you are and expand from there.

Witnessing: Prayer – A Central Ingredient

Mt. 9:37-38; Lk. 10:2

1. Prayer is the best wireless connection.

2. Is our mission in the world the same as God's?
3. God is the One Who must provide the workers.
4. How we view people will make us or break us – and them.
5. What is the balance?

Witnessing: Principles for Effectiveness

John 4:1-26

1. Contact people socially (v. 3-6)
2. Connect with others through common interests (v. 7-8)
3. Curiosity may be aroused (v. 9-10)
4. Conversation is to be enriched, not rushed (v. 11-15)
5. Cultivate – don't condemn (v. 16-18)
6. Curb secondary issues (v. 19-24)
7. Confront people with Christ (v. 25-26)

Witnessing: Scriptural Supports:
***BAD* News (SIN) & *Good* News (SALVATION)**

1. ***BAD NEWS***
   Rom. 3:10-12; 23; 5:12
   Jn. 3:18, 36
   Rom. 6:23
2. ***GOOD NEWS***
   Acts 4:12
   Rom. 5:6-8
   Rom. 10:9-10, 13
   Jn. 1:12
   2 Cor. 5:21

Witnessing: Three C's

1. CHRIST (1 Jn. 5:10 – Acts 1:8 – Mt. 4:19)
2. COMPASSION (Rom. 9:1-3 – Mt. 9:36; 14:14; 15:32; 20:34)
3. COURAGE (Acts 4:13, 29, 31; Eph. 3:12; Phil. 1:19-20)